

User Manual

From RibTools

Contents

- 1 Installation
- 2 Quick Start
 - 2.1 RibRenderToy
 - 2.2 RibRender
 - 2.3 RibRenderServer
 - 2.4 RSLCompilerCmd
- 3 General Usage

Installation

- **Get** the latest version of the binaries from the downloads page (<http://code.google.com/p/ribtools/downloads/list>) over at Google Project Hosting.
- **Unzip** the archive in the directory of your choosing (Note: the archive includes own RibTools/ directory).



Note: you may need to perform a one-time install of the freely redistributable CRT libraries from Microsoft, downloadable here (<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=A5C84275-3B97-4AB7-A40D-3802B2AF5FC2&displaylang=en>) and in the *RibTools* binaries package at

`RibTools\Install\vcredist_x86.exe`.

Quick Start

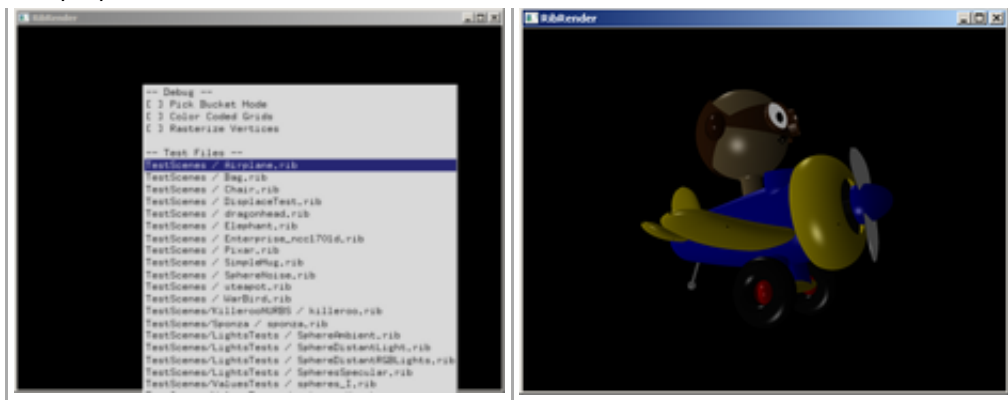
From the *RibTools* directory, launch the file `MakeTests.bat`, wait for it to complete and enjoy some fine renderings in the *TestsOutput* folder.

Three executables are currently distributed: **RibRenderToy**, **RibRender**, **RibRenderServer** and **RSLCompilerCmd**.

RibRenderToy

This is a minimally interactive application that will render any RIB file present in the `TestScenes` folder.

Launch the application, *right click* in the window to open a menu from which to choose a file to render.



Note: The rendering is always redirected to the application window, ignoring any target specified by the *Display* command in the RIB files.

RibRender

This command will render a scene described by a RIB file (<http://www.3dartist.com/WP/formats/index.html#rib>) into an image file or in a window.

From a command line, type `RibRender -h` to get the following help:

```
==== RibRender v0.9 -- (Feb 16 2010 - 02:54:03) ====

RibRender <rib file> [options]

Options:
  -help | --help | -h          -- Show this help
  -server <address>:<port>      -- Specify an IP and port number for a render server
  -forcedlongdim <size in pixels> -- Force the largest dimension's rendering size in pixels
  -colorgrids                  -- Show grids in false colors (for debugging)

Examples:
  RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib
  RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib -server 192.168.1.107 -server 192.168.1.108:30000
  RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib -forcedlongdim 1024
```



Note: RIB scene description files usually specify the output format with an explicit *Display* command. So, a RIB file may decide whether the output will be in the form of an image file (usually TIFF) or in a window for display. If no *Display* command is found, **RibRender** will automatically generate an RGBA TIFF image named `frame0001.tif`.

RibRenderServer

This command acts for a render server for any *RibRender* command that will accesses this application through the machine's IP and selected port.

From a command line, type `RibRender -h` to get the following help:

```
==== RibRenderServer v0.9 -- (Feb 16 2010 - 02:54:00) ====

RibRenderServer [options]

Options:
  -help | --help | -h          -- Show this help
  -port <port>                 -- Wait for connection at port <port>
```

Examples:

```
RibRenderServer  
RibRenderServer -port 31111
```



Note: **RibRenderServer** gives an additional capability to distribute rendering but it is *not* necessary as **RibRender** is fully capable of rendering on its own.

RSLCompilerCmd

This command is included only for *internal testing purposes*. It compiles a .sl file into a RibRender .rrasm file type. Such operation is done internally by the renderer, and **the user does not normally need to run this command explicitly**.

General Usage

In order to run the **RibRender**, **RibRenderServer** and **RSLCompilerCmd** commands from the command line shell from any directory in the system, the `RIBTOOLS_DIR` environment variable must be set.

In DOS/Windows this is accomplished by doing:

```
SET RIBTOOLS_DIR=<Path>
```

Where `<Path>` is the pathname where the executables are, along with the `ribtools.ini` file (this file is used also to confirm that the directory is indeed RibTools' directory).

`SET` however is not permanent. To set an environment variable that persists after a reboot in Windows XP and above, use the following instruction (<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;310519>) from Microsoft.

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